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ONE YEAR AGO –
I wanted to believe that my powers would return.
But since they haven't…
…I've restored my faith in Clark Kent.
CLARK KENT
DAILY PLANET
NEW META WORKING IN AFRICA?
WHAT CHURCH DO THE MISSIONARIES BELONG TO
SPEED, STRENGTH, FLIGHT – NO PICTURE
Unfortunately, the accountants at the Daily Planet don't share that faith…
SORRY, KENT, CAN'T SAY I DISAGREE WITH THEIR CALL.
PERRY, THERE'S SOMETHING HERE– THE NVASIR GOVERNMENT IS OPPOSED TO THE MISSIONARIES–
–AND THIS MYSTERIOUS NEW METAHUMAN HAS–
NO NAME. NO PIX. AND NO COMMENT. IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE FOR A FISHING TRIP, CLARK.
PERRY WHITE

WE'VE PLAYED THIS OUT BEFORE, SERGEANT.
THE SAKIRA TRIBE HAS CHOSEN TO FOLLOW THE BELIEFS OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF REDEMPTION.
THE JOHANSSON FAMILY IS HERE TO MINISTER TO THEIR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.
YOUR LAWS PROHIBIT THEIR FREEDOM OF RELIGION...
...BUT FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO ARREST US.
I CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES...
TAKE HIM DOWN!
BRATTATTAA BRATTATTAA BRATTATTAA
NO! I TOLD YOU NOT TO DO THIS!
ZZZTHHTTZZZZZZZTTZ

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—BOOKLIST

Written by
GEOFF JOHNS
Art by
ETHAN VAN SCIVER

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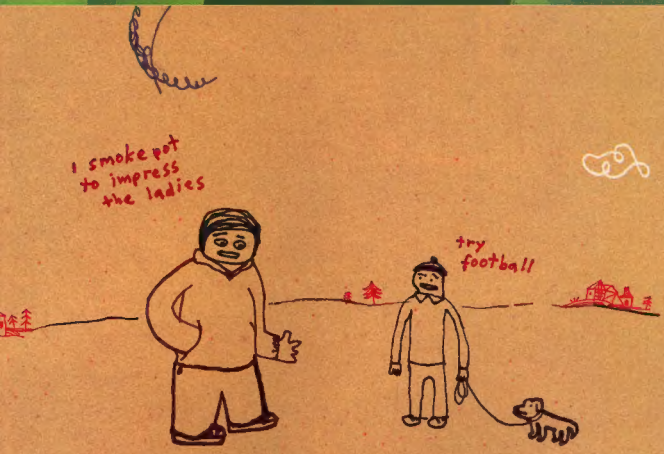

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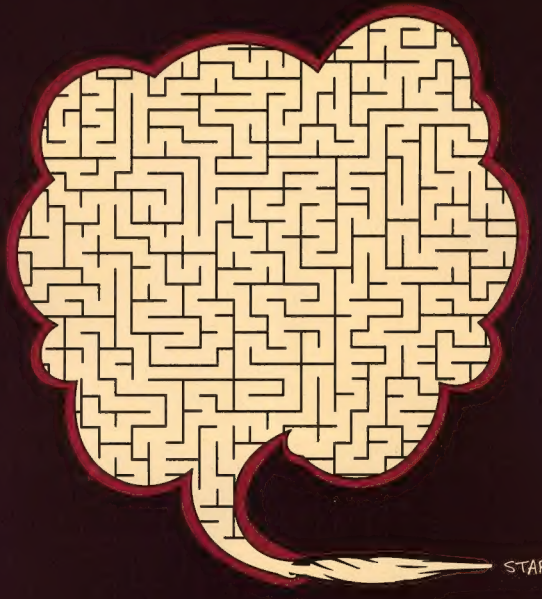
Office of National Drug Control Policy/Partnership for a Drug-Free America®

I should have done more.
Even before my powers returned, I should have done more.



OR START HERE.
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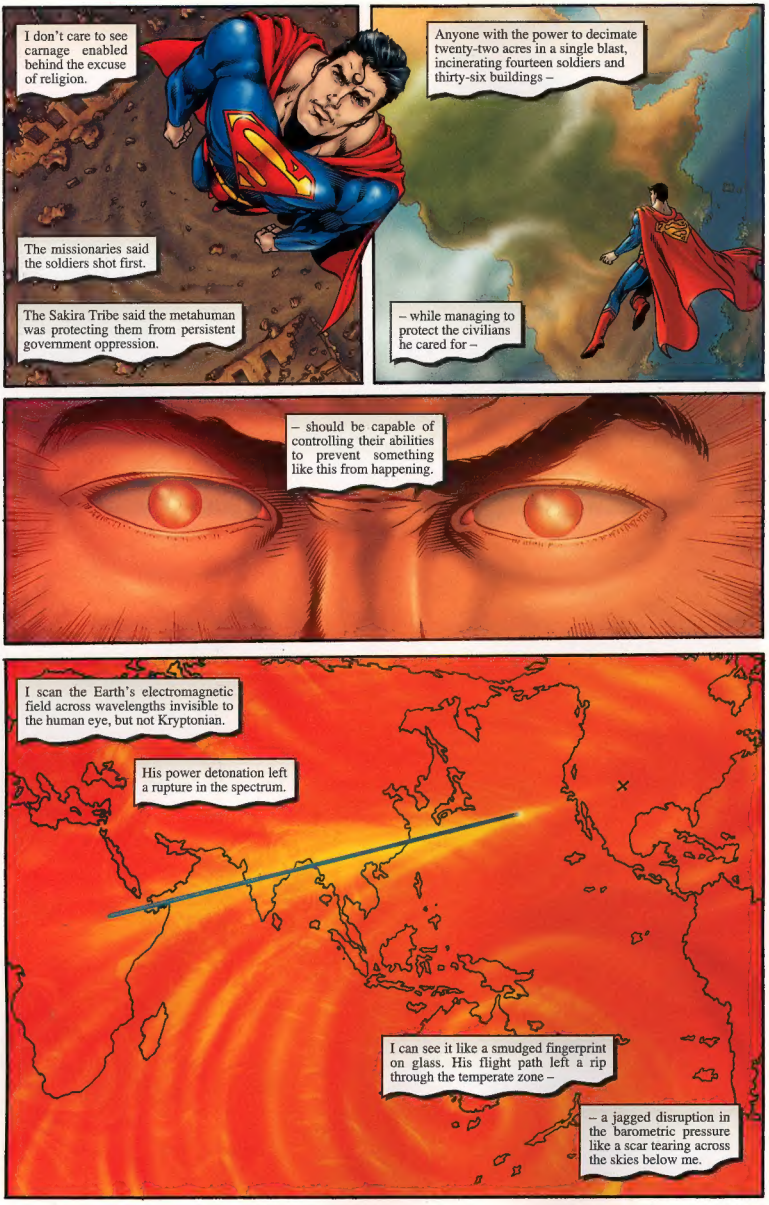
Office of National Drug Control Policy/Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

I could have tried digging harder – worked new leads.
Come up with an eyewitness – someone… something…
But after those initial events, things here quieted down.
The Nyasirian government left the missionaries alone, and the mysterious metahuman stayed out of sight.
And I stopped worrying.
Now look at this.
I should have done more.


I don't care to see carnage enabled behind the excuse of religion.
The missionaries said the soldiers shot first.
The Sakira Tribe said the metahuman was protecting them from persistent government oppression.
Anyone with the power to decimate twenty-two acres in a single blast, incinerating fourteen soldiers and thirty-six buildings –
– while managing to protect the civilians he cared for –
– should be capable of controlling their abilities to prevent something like this from happening.
I scan the Earth's electromagnetic field across wavelengths invisible to the human eye, but not Kryptonian.
His power detonation left a rupture in the spectrum.
I can see it like a smudged fingerprint on glass. His flight path left a rip through the temperate zone –
– a jagged disruption in the barometric pressure like a scar tearing across the skies below me.

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They called him Redemption.
He'll have to go a long way to live up to his name…
I follow the trail across the Indian and Pacific Ocean. Up past southern California and through Nevada.
It suddenly stops here
VALLEY FALLS, COLORADO –
I don't appreciate the irony of its similarities to my hometown of Smallville.
The power signature fades here, almost like he turned off his abilities…
X-ray vision provides my first glimpse of Redemption.
I don't know what I was expecting…
. but it wasn't this…
FORGIVE ME, LORD, FOR I HAVE SINNED…

IT'S ALL RIGHT, JAROD. YOU WERE DOING THE LORD'S WORK.
I KILLED THEM ALL, MOM... ALL OF THEM--
YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO, SON-- RIGHT?
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT-- THE POWER INSIDE ME--
--I NEVER FELT IT LIKE THAT-- SO MANY PEOPLE BELIEVING IN ME--
--SO MANY PEOPLE WANTING TO SEE THE LORD'S WORK CARRIED ON THROUGH ME... IT WAS LIKE A TIDAL WAVE--
--I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF -- MY POWERS-- I COULDN'T STOP IT--
His heart rate, respiration, perspiration – all in an agitated state… hard to tell if he is lying ..
. .or if he believes he's telling the truth
If his power really is somehow fueled by the belief others have in him…

…is he responsible for his powers going out of control?
I can't risk a confrontation if he can't control his powers..
…for the safety of everyone in this town, as well as his own, I have to learn more about Redemption before I engage him.
He's a member of this congregation.
I very much want this not to be a problem.
The church was built in 1883. The property was bought in 1949 by Matthew Hightower, who founded a new denomination.
Reminds me of Sundays in Smallville with my mom.
Seemed like the whole town would come out…
…felt such a sense of. . belonging…
HEY, CLARK!
HEY, PETE!
Eighty-five years old and Hightower still runs the church.
I find that laudable, but Perry's voice edits me, cigar in mouth, growling…
…"So, does that make him a control freak?"

REVEREND HIGHTOWER? CLARK KENT, DAILY PLANET.
A REPORTER FROM METROPOLIS ALL THE WAY OVER HERE?
YES, SIR. I'M WORKING ON A STORY ABOUT--
THE JOHANSSON FAMILY, RIGHT?
YES, SIR. BUT ALSO ABOUT...
...JARROD DALE...
His heartbeat skips. I smell a trace of sweat on his palms.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW ONE HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE OTHER, SON.
JARROD IS NOT PART OF OUR MISSIONARY PROGRAM IN NYASIR.
BUT THE METAHUMAN CALLED REDEMPTION WAS THERE.
YES, HE WAS, MR. KENT.
DON'T LOOK SURPRISED, SON, WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE HERE.
REDEMPTION WAS... DISPATCHED... TO PROTECT THE SHEPHERDS OF OUR CHURCH.
AND ARE YOU... SATISFIED... WITH HOW THAT TURNED OUT, REVEREND?

NO, MR. KENT, I MOST CERTAINLY AM NOT.
IT WAS A TERRIBLY UNFORTUNATE SITUATION... ONE EXACERBATED BY THE NYASIRIAN MILITARY, I MIGHT ADD.
I UNDERSTAND THAT, SIR, BUT TAKING THAT INTO ACCOUNT--
--DO YOU FEEL IT IS A WISE IDEA TO SEND AN UNSTABLE METAHUMAN INTO POTENTIAL CONFLICT?
UNSTABLE...?
I ASSURE YOU, MR. KENT, JAROD IS A FOUNDATION OF STRENGTH AND HIS FAMILY, THE BEDROCK OF OUR COMMUNITY.
WOULD YOU MIND CONTINUING OUR CONVERSATION AFTER THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE, MR. KENT?
NO, OF COURSE NOT.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY. WE ENJOY HAVING GUESTS.
THANK YOU... I THINK I WILL...
He talks about the Samaritans as metaphor for those who hide among them, feigning support for their cause.
It is a spontaneous speech meant specifically for me. I saw his notes on the pulpit.
He had planned a sermon about Nyasir, using Abraham and Isaac to talk of sacrifice in the name of faith.
Hightower is a gifted speaker. Very compelling. He almost manages to make me feel guilty about being here.
Almost

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BREAKING NEWS EVERY WEEK!

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But the message is received. I am the enemy.
And I don't want to be. The people, the community... everything about it is... right.
Somehow, Jarod Dale wields powers that could conceivably dwarf my own.
And his parents... they're not so different from my own.
If I confront him now, does that help teach him self-control –
or does it make a very tentative situation worse?
I don't know.
I need the one thing I might not have the luxury of...

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IN STORES SEPTEMBER 2007

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.time
I put down a fire outside of Calgary.
Stopped a car from falling off the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.
Helped evacuate a stalled ski-lift in Aspen.
Even managed to get my Notepadd to work and wired my story on the Johanssons to the office. Miracles do happen.
I didn't mention Redemption in the piece…
...BUT ALL DAY LONG, I HAD ONE EYE AND ONE EAR ON VALLEY FALLS.
AND WHAT DID YOU LEARN, CLARK?
NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE ME FEEL ANY BETTER OR ANY WORSE ABOUT THIS.
YOU CAN'T POLICE EVERY META, EVERY DAY, YOU KNOW.
AND YOU MADE MISTAKES WHEN YOU WERE FIRST LEARNING HOW TO USE YOUR POWERS, RIGHT?
I STILL DO, LOIS... BUT MY MISTAKES NEVER GOT ANYONE KILLED.

LOOK TO THE SKIES!
COUNTDOWN
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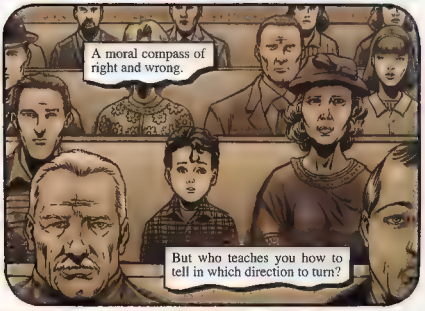
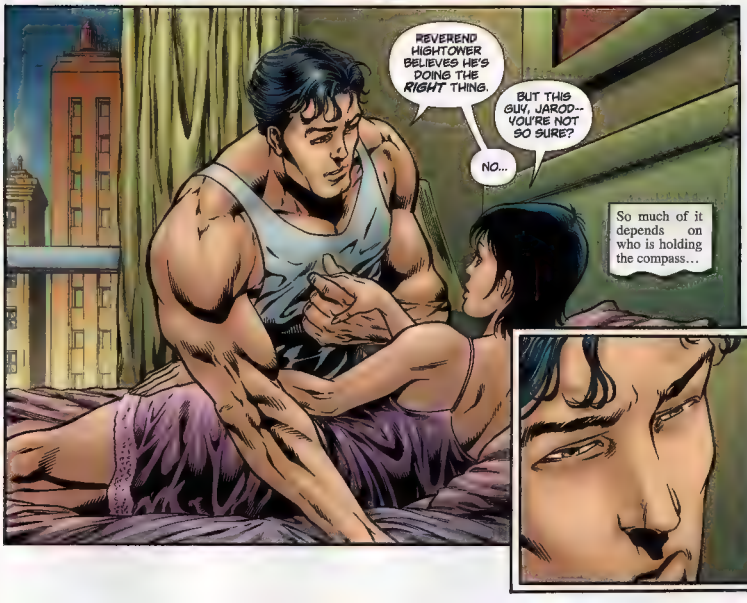
BUT WAS IT *HIS* FAULT IF *OTHER* PEOPLE ARE FUELING HIS POWERS? THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT? THE WHOLE RELIGIOUS ANGLE IS THROWING YOU OFF, RIGHT?
IT'S OKAY TO ADMIT IT, SMALLVILLE.
KIND OF IRONIC, ACTUALLY. MR. TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY...
WHOSE TRUTH? WHOSE JUSTICE?

AND WHAT THE HECK DOES "THE AMERICAN WAY" *MEAN* EXACTLY?
Just words... but so much more than words.


A moral compass of right and wrong.
But who teaches you how to tell in which direction to turn?


REVEREND HIGHTOWER BELIEVES HE'S DOING THE *RIGHT* THING.
BUT THIS GUY, JAROD-- YOU'RE NOT SO SURE?
NO...
So much of it depends on who is holding the compass...

I KNOW YOUR PATH HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY ONE, JAROD.
BUT I HAVE WALKED SEVERAL MILES IN YOUR SHOES, SON.
I KNOW HOW TRYING A JOURNEY IT CAN BE.
WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME TEA?
NO, THANK YOU, REVEREND. I HAVE TO GET BACK HOME.
I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN NYASIR. OUR FAITH WAS TOO STRONG...
...BUT YOU HAVE TO TEMPER THAT BELIEF WITH PATIENCE AS WELL AS PASSION.
WHAT DO I DO IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN?
YOU DO THE BEST YOU CAN, SON. THAT'S ALL THE LORD EXPECTS.

THANK YOU, SIR.
OF COURSE.
OH, AND JAROD...
WHEN... NOT IF...
THE SIKARA TRIBAL LANDS. NYASIR –
WE WAITED. WE WATCHED.
WE LEARNED THAT YOUR PROTECTOR DOES NOT LIVE AMONG YOU.
THAT MEANS YOUR TIME HERE IS DONE.
YOU WERE WARNED... WE WERE PATIENT... I AM SORRY, BUT... I HAVE MY ORDERS...

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METROPOLIS –
FOUR SKIM LATTES, TWO DECAF, FOUR HI-TEST MACHIATTOS...
...AND ONE GOOD OL' FASHIONED...
--REPORTS OF A RAMPAGE IN NYASIR, AS THE CAPITAL CITY HAS COME UNDER ATTACK BY--
...NO FOAM, NO SYRUP, NO SAUCES, NO SOY, JUST COFFEE--
MR. KENT--?
It's too late for the missionaries –
but I have to get to Nyasir before he does…
Then… I hear the sounds of gunfire… explosions… the trampling footsteps of hundreds running in fear…

BURANDA. CAPITAL OF NYASIR –
I'm too late .
THEY NEVER DID ANYTHING TO HURT YOU!

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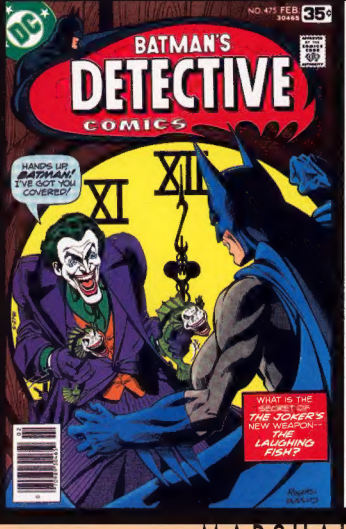
THIS ENDS NOW.
To Be Concluded...



HERE'S A LOT OF THINGS GOING THROUGH MY MIND AT THIS VERY SERIOUS THINKING...
...BUT DON'T DESPAIR, ACTION-LOVERS! YOUR DOG IS DRAWING SOON!
HEY, SAY THE BATMAN CAN SOLVE ANYTHING--
--BUT HE'S UP A STUMP ON THIS ONE! I WONDER WHO OR DOESN'T SHE?--
--AND WHAT IF SHE DOESN'T?
I'VE GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO KEEP MY IDENTITY SECRET, FOR THE GOOD OF REASONS!
--BRUCE, WAYNE MUST REMAIN A SAFE DISTANCE!
I CRIED NO TEARS WHEN MAGNUS BECAME A MONSTER!*
*SHE AND HUGO STRANGE LEARNED THE SECRET IN TBG #471 - JULIA
BUT I DON'T WANT ALFRED TO GO THAT ROUTE--
--I JUST WON'T!
--PERIOD!
--NO WORLD-SIZED CRISES? SOMETHING?
--IN IN LOVE WITH THAT GIRL. THE REAL ME UNDERNEATH ALL THE MASKS!
AND STILL THE MAN BENEATH THE MASK CAN'T BE CAREFREE! I MUST BE ALWAYS ON GUARD IN PROTECTION FROM DOOM!
EVER SINCE STEPPED OUT OF THE SUN TO RANDOM'S DOWN--
HEY! HELLO?!

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MARSHALL ROGERS

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DC NATION

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at dccomics.com

Next in...

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Mankind's savior is about to become mankind's doom!

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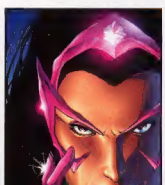
BLUE BEETLE #14



GREEN LANTERN #19

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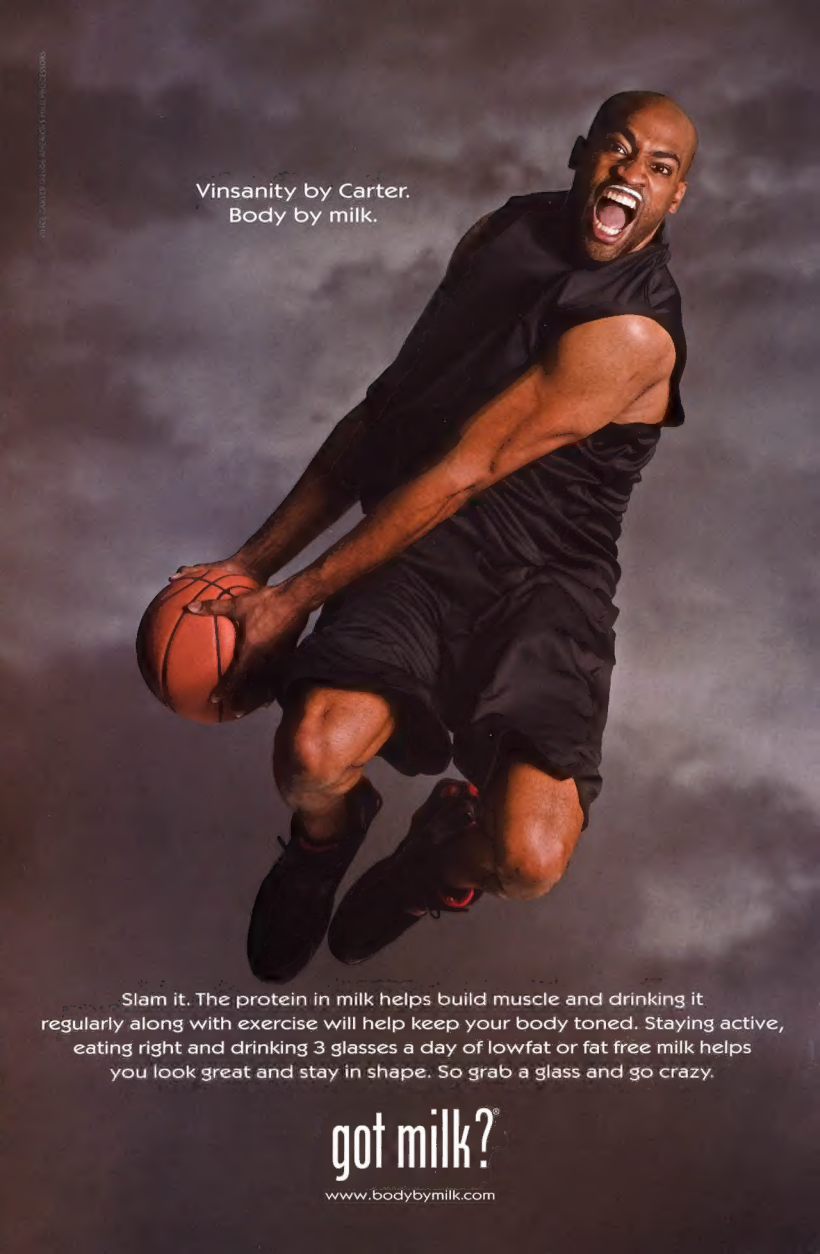
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REDEMPTION part one
IF YOU BELIEVE, A MAN CAN FLY
WELL, HE DIDN'T KILL THE STORY, RIGHT...?
HE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE, LOIS, IT'S JUST MORE THAN THE STORY--
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT A META GETTING INVOLVED IN RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS?
NO...
Yes.
I ANSWER TO A HIGHER AUTHORITY.
Lois knows me too well.
There is a fine line between having a belief, sharing a belief and imposing it.
What happens if a metahuman crosses that line…?
ONE MONTH AGO –
NYASIR –
WE BELIEVE IN REDEMPTION.
WE BELIEVE IN REDEMPTION.
WE BELIEVE IN REDEMPTION.
YOU ARE NOT WELCOME HERE!
FABIAN NICIEZA writer
ALLAN GOLDMAN penciller
RON RANDALL inker
JARED K. FLETCHER letterer
MARTA MARTINEZ colorist
NACHIE CASTRO associate editor
MATT IDELSON editor
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